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**Peter M. Lake**  
Chairman

**Will McAdams**  
Commissioner

**Lori Cobos**  
Commissioner

**Thomas J. Gleeson**  
Executive Director



**Greg Abbott**  
Governor

2021 JUN 23 PM 3:33

***Public Utility Commission of Texas***

TO: Chairman Peter M. Lake  
Commissioner Will McAdams  
Commissioner Lori Cobos

FROM: Shelah J. Cisneros  
Office of Policy and Docket Management

RE: June 24, 2021 Open Meeting, Agenda Item No. 28.

DATE: June 23, 2021

Please find enclosed a memorandum by Chairman Lake. Please file this in Project No. 51617, open meeting agenda items without an associated control number.

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# *Public Utility Commission of Texas*

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## **Commissioner Memorandum**

**TO:** Commissioner McAdams  
Commissioner Cobos

**FROM:** Chairman Peter M. Lake

**DATE:** June 23, 2021

**RE:** June 24, 2021 Open Meeting – Agenda Item No. 28

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As we discussed at our last open meeting, we need more transparency and information about forced outages and that information should quickly be made available to the public.

Currently, information regarding forced outages is provided by generators to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). However, under the ERCOT protocols, key information regarding forced outages is considered protected and remains confidential for a 60-day period. Recent events have made it clear that, when it comes to forced outages, the public deserves to know what generation units are unavailable, the amount of unavailable capacity, the cause of the outage, and when the units are expected to return to service. In addition, it is important that the public can easily access this critical information.

Therefore, I recommend that the Commission waive the portion of ERCOT Nodal Protocol § 1.3.1.1(1)(c) that protects outage information for sixty days. I propose that the Commission waive this provision for forced outages, and that the waiver be effective for the time period of June 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. This will ensure that information for the forced outages that occurred earlier this month that led to ERCOT issuing the conservation alerts is made available, and that information for any additional forced outages will be available throughout the summer months.

Additionally, I recommend that the Commission direct ERCOT to make access to this information clearly visible on the front page of their website so that the public can easily locate this information. Because it may take ERCOT some time to format this information in a way that is easily accessible on its website, I recommend that the Commission's order specify that information regarding any forced outages be made available within three days from the date the forced outage occurs, with the exception of the forced outages that took place earlier this month. That information should be made available on the ERCOT website within seven days of the Commission's order.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you at the open meeting.